October 24, 2014

Mr. Robert McEllrath  Mr. James McKenna
President  Chairman and CEO
International Longshore and Warehouse Union  Pacific Maritime Association
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor  555 Market Street, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94110  San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. McEllrath and Mr. McKenna:

We, the undersigned, represent the communities of the U.S. West Coast most heavily reliant on the continued success of the West Coast ports. For the past several months, we have been monitoring, with great interest, the progress in your ongoing negotiations. We have been encouraged by joint messages that you have released throughout the negotiations indicating your commitment to maintaining a smooth flow of commerce as you negotiate a new agreement.

As you know, approximately two-thirds of America’s international trade flows through the U.S. West Coast ports, making it our most important trade gateway and critical to our continued economic prosperity. Collectively, these ports are among the largest employers in the U.S., providing nearly 300,000 jobs in our communities and driving local economic development.

The growth and success of the U.S. West Coast port system is due mainly to your collective efforts, as well as the partnership and support of the federal government. Given your importance to our local communities, and the national and international economy, we, urge a swift and equitable resolution to the ongoing negotiations.

Sincerely,

Janice Hahn  Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  Mark Takano
Member of Congress  Member of Congress